



Florida's Harborside Hometown

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

OCTOBER 4, 2019

City Manager

- **Alert Punta Gorda** – Get notified in the event of an emergency. Subscribe now for public safety alerts regarding hurricanes, critical threats, evacuation, and other important emergency information from Punta Gorda Police and Fire Departments. To sign up to join Alert Punta Gorda visit <https://bit.ly/2mnlBqZ>.
- **Election Information City of Punta Gorda** –
 - ✓ The newly elected Councilmember for District 3 will be sworn in at the Nov. 20 meeting. The reorganization meeting, including election of Mayor and Vice Mayor, will also take place that day. Councilmember Wein will still be seated as a Councilmember at the Nov. 6 meeting. Section 7 of the City's Charter specifies "The first regular meeting of the Council following a City election shall be termed the organizational meeting, at which newly elected members shall be inducted into office." However, Article IX, Section 1. States, "Councilmembers elected by these elections shall take office on the next regularly scheduled Council meeting following certification of the results of these elections." It has been recommended by the Charlotte County Supervisor of Election, and the City Attorney has agreed, that due to the conflicting language, we should defer to the State's election laws in this matter, which specifies certification of the results takes place following the counting of all votes, including provisional votes. Provisional ballots will not be counted until the deadline has passed for voters to submit a cure affidavit (Nov. 7 at 5 pm). Therefore, the next City Council meeting following certification of the results will be Nov. 20.
 - ✓ The deadline to **register to vote** in the upcoming City Election is Oct. 7. Please contact the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections, 226 Taylor Street, Punta Gorda, Florida, call (941) 833-5400 or register online at <https://registertovoteflorida.gov/en/registration/Index>.
 - ✓ Beginning on Oct. 7 and through Nov. 6, Over the Counter ballots will be available from the City Clerk's Office each week day from 8 am to 4:30 pm.
 - ✓ The deadline for voters to request a Vote by Mail ballot is Oct. 26 at 5 p.m. Contact the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections Office at (941) 833-5400.
 - ✓ Candidate Campaign Treasurer's Reports submitted for all 2019 City General Election reporting periods through Sept. 27 (due date Oct. 4) are available by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (941) 575-3369 or pgclerk@cityofpuntafordafl.com.
- **Bayfront Center & Boat Club** – At its Oct. 2 meeting, City Council approved retention of the current buildings, which will allow the City and Boat Club to invest in their renovation. City staff will meet with Boat Club representatives to prepare a new lease, and the City will also secure an independent appraisal of the Bayfront Center. Council mentioned the historic nature of both buildings and desire to seek interior and façade improvements that will serve the community and park environs.



- 1% Sales Tax Committee** – Effective Oct. 2 not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental agencies are invited to submit proposals for funding City infrastructure capital projects with a life expectancy of five years or greater. Projects may include new construction as well as renovations/additions and must be completed between 2021 and 2027. There is neither a minimum nor a maximum funding amount for each project. The City has used the 1% local option sales tax since 1994 to fund a variety of infrastructure projects that enhance our quality of life. The current local option tax was extended for six years in Nov. 2014 and is set to expire in Dec. 2020. In Nov. 2020, Charlotte County and the City of Punta Gorda will ask the voters to extend the local option sales tax. The City anticipates the tax will generate a total fund of 2.45 million per year over the span of six years. The projects selected for inclusion in the 1% local option sales tax are submitted to the City Council and vetted through a citizen focus group. To access the RFP Document and Sample visit <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/Home/Components/News/News/2983/17>. Please contact Melissa Reichert, Communications Manager at (941) 575-3394 or via email at mreichert@cityofpuntagordafl.com with any questions. The next meeting of the City of Punta Gorda 1% Sales Tax Committee will take place on Oct. 30 at 1:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. The public is invited to attend and provide comments.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
10/4-10/6	Sandra's Oktober Fest	111 W Olympia Ave	http://www.sandras-restaurant.com/
10/5	Walk to End Alzheimer's	Laishley Park	https://act.alz.org
10/5	October St Vincent Rummage Sale	The Society of St. Vincent De Paul Sacred Heart Church	www.svdpusa.org/
10/11-10/13	MarineMax Boat Sale	City Marketplace	https://www.marinemax.com
10/12	City Wide Garage Sale	Comfort Storage	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
10/12	MHM Hosts "Anchors Away"	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
10/12	MHM Hosts United States Navy 244 th Birthday	Military Heritage Museum	www.militaryheritagemuseum.org
10/13	Vendor & Craft Fair	Laishley Park	https://www.facebook.com/events/729288350805046/
10/15	PGI Cars & Coffee	1133 Bal Harbor Blvd	billtucker@earthlink.net
10/17	Third Thursday Wine Walk	Downtown Punta Gorda	frontdesk@puntagorda-chamber.com
10/19	Food Truck Festival	Laishley Park	www.allrainbowandalliedyouth.org/
10/19	Monthly Car Show	Muscle Car City	http://musclecarcity.net/events/
10/24	Nature Park Ribbon Cutting	Nature Park	https://pgigreenthumbs.org
10/25-10/27 & 10/31	Smugglers Haunting on the Harbor	City Marketplace	http://smugglersevents.com

Lot Mowing Program

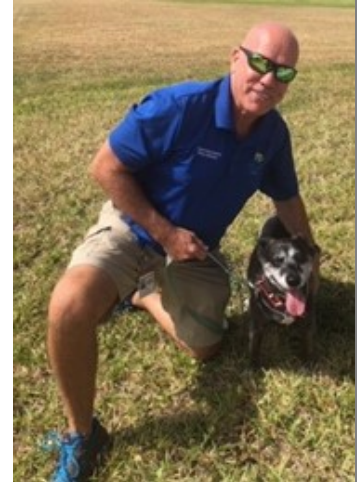
- The City has completed mowing the following areas; PGI Bird Section (Almar Drive, Albatross drive, Whippoorwill Blvd, and Turtle Dove Blvd), PGI (Bal Harbor Blvd, Deborah Drive, Ryan Blvd, Suzi Street, and Casey Key Drive), PGI (Magdalina Drive, Via Vento, W Henry Street, Appian Drive, and Columbian Drive), Colony Point (Colony Point Dr., W. Marion Ave., Socorro Dr., and Coronado Dr.), Burnt Store Meadows (Areas of Tamiami Tr., N. Blue Sage, S. Blue Sage, Royal Poinciana, and Gold Tree), Burnt Store Isles (Monaco Dr, Tripoli Blvd, Madrid Blvd, and Macedonia Dr), the East Side and the area behind Dunkin Donuts (E. Marion Ave, E Olympia Ave, Narranja St, E Henry St, and Cooper St).

Code Compliance

- Code Compliance Officer Allen McDaniel found a new friend near the St. Andrews South golf course. Dixon; a new resident of the City, had wandered away from his home to explore the area. Officer McDaniel contacted Dixon's family and was able to reunite them.

Urban Design

- At the Oct. 2 meeting, City Council opened the floor for public comments on the Plan Punta Gorda 2019 Citywide Masterplan. This vision plan for the City's future is available online at <http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/citywide-master-plan>. The following meetings will provide additional opportunities for the public to comment on the Plan:
 - City Council: Oct. 16, 9am public comment and City Council discussion
 - Planning Commission: Oct. 28, 2 p.m. public comment and Commission recommendation to City Council
 - City Council: Nov. 6, 9 a.m. public hearing (comment) for consideration of plan acceptance
- The City has had a Climate Adaptation Plan since 2009. This year the City received a grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to assist the City in updating that plan. At the October 2nd City Council meeting, after a presentation of the plan by the City's consultant, Taylor Engineering, the 2019 update to the Punta Gorda Climate Adaptation Plan was accepted by City Council. The draft plan which was available in late spring was forwarded to Dover, Kohl & Partners, and the consultants for the Plan Punta Gorda 2019 Citywide Masterplan, to inform the proposed implementation portion of the Masterplan. Within the Gulf Coast region the City of Punta Gorda continues to shine as a positive example of proactive planning in the areas of climate change, pre-disaster, and resiliency planning. The plan can be viewed at www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/government/city-manager/climate-adaptation-plan
 - City staff was interviewed by representatives of the Adaptation Clearinghouse this week about the City's Climate Adaptation Planning efforts over the past decade. The Adaptation Clearinghouse is part of the University of Georgetown Climate Center. The Clearinghouse provides resources is to assist policymakers, resource managers and other who are working to help communities adapt to climate change.
- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is hosting a public meeting to help create a Corridor Vision Plan for US 41 (Tamiami Trail) in Charlotte County. The goal for this effort is to formulate a Corridor Vision Plan that will be reflective of where your community would like to be and how FDOT, as a partner, can better understand your needs. Meeting is Oct. 15 at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center and Conference from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Public Works Department

Engineering

- **Gilchrist Fishing Pier** – The fishing pier will be closed for repairs beginning Oct. 4 through Oct. 7. The pier suffered minor damages last month when an errant boat crashed into the pier.
- **Taylor/Marion Street Bollards** – City crews will begin excavating on Oct. 7 for the installation of bollards on Taylor and Marion Streets.
- **Veterans Park Phase II** – Stevens and Layton Inc. has installed construction fencing at the Veteran's Park Phase II project and will begin the demolition phase of work on Oct. 7. At this point the project still has an estimated completion timeframe of mid to late Dec.
- **Alligator Creek Pedestrian Bridges along US41 NB-FDOT Right of Way** – Work continues preparing rebar and forms for proposed cap construction. Contractors Work Area is north and south of the north fork Alligator Creek Bridge parallel to US41 NB remains closed to pedestrians and cyclists until further notice.
- **Citywide Drainage Swale Regrading** – To date JRL Underground has completed work at 503 properties totaling square feet of grading/sodding. Work was completed this week at 542-550 Royal Poinciana and also between 586-624 Royal Poinciana. Work is underway between 405-449 Scarlet Sage and 448-454 Scarlet Sage.

Upcoming Project

- City forces will begin removing the remaining storm panels on Oct. 7.
- City forces will begin the installation of Christmas Decorations the first week of Nov.
- City forces will begin reinstalling the acoustic fence at the Pickleball Courts the first week of Nov.
- Compile the data from the current mangrove trimming program including current budget.

Canal Maintenance

- **Repairs** – Crews filled 25 depressions and performed five seawall cap and seam patches.
- **Buckley's Pass** – The north sections of seawall panels have been installed. The helical anchors are being installed along the north sections. Rock removal and seawall panel installation is ongoing in the south section.



Police Department

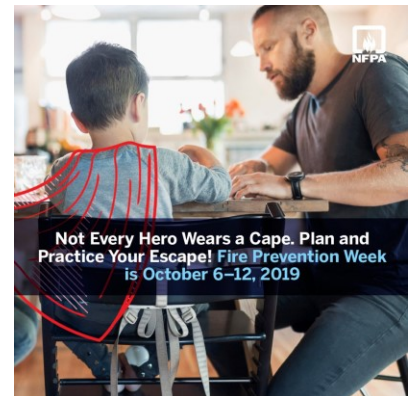
- **Employee Development Coordinator Position** – The Police Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Employee Development Coordinator. This is a non-sworn, administrative position responsible for department training programs, hiring and testing processes, member certifications, and armory management. You can apply by visiting www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Lieutenant Dylan Renz at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com.

- **Police Officer Testing** – Twenty applicants tested this week for the position of Police Officer with the Department. Fifteen applicants successfully passed the testing process. The next testing process will be held on Jan. 13, 2020 with oral board interviews scheduled on Jan. 14, 2020 and Jan. 15, 2020. You can apply to participate by visiting www.pgpdjobs.com.
- **Public Safety Dispatcher Testing** – The Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Public Safety Dispatcher. Testing will be held on Oct. 14. Applicants must be submitted prior to 4 p.m. on Oct. 7. To apply visit www.pgpdjobs.com. For more information, please contact Lieutenant Dylan Renz at (941) 575-5503 or by email at drenz@cityofpuntafordafl.com
- **Walk to School Day** – Sallie Jones Elementary celebrated Walk to School Day. Members of the Police Department and school staff joined walking with students to encourage health and wellness.
- **National Coffee with a Cop Day** – Members of the Police Department and Vice Mayor Lynne Matthews spent some time talking with community members at the Punta Gorda Starbucks for National Coffee with a Cop Day.



Fire Department

- The Fire Department and the National Fire Protection Agency remind residents that Oct. 6-12 is Fire Prevention Week. Steps to remember for creating a home escape plan are:
 - ✓ Map it out - Draw or map out the layout of your home, marking two exits from every room (typically a door and a window) and a path from each to an outside exit.
 - ✓ Smoke alarms – Mark the location of all smoke alarms in your home. There should be at least one on every level, in every bedroom and near all sleeping areas.
 - ✓ Meeting place – Pick a meeting place outside in front of your home where everyone will meet upon exiting.
 - ✓ 911 – Make sure everyone knows how to call 911 from a mobile phone or neighbor's phone once they are safe outside.



Utilities Department

Groundwater R.O. Construction Update – In addition to the water quality improvements the Groundwater R.O. plant will provide the project will also greatly improve the reliability of the water supply by providing a groundwater source in addition to the existing supply from the creeks.



Week 66 – Installing the decking in the RO process room

Water Treatment Plant Operations

- 42.7 MG of water was delivered to the distribution system with a 6.1 MG daily average
- Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority Emergency Interconnect – Receiving water at a rate of .5 million gallons per day, started Sept. 30.
- Rainfall in Sept. 2018 3.60” and Sept. 2019 .08” Oct. 2018 .05” Oct. 2019 0.00”
- Hardness is a measurement of calcium and magnesium ions naturally occurring in the raw water. Current Condition “hard” – Grains of Hardness 14 ppm – Total hardness 239 ppm
- TDS for Oct. 3 – Current 414 ppm, Low 251 ppm, High 415 ppm, 10 Year Avg. 323 ppm
- Reservoir Oct. 3– Current 5.10’, Record Low 4.98’, Record High 7.08’, 54 Year Avg. 5.55’

Administration

- Punta Gorda water customers will be receiving a notice via mail in the next couple of weeks regarding information about the drinking water in Punta Gorda. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) requires disinfection of drinking water to inactivate possible pathogens, because the health benefits of disinfection far outweigh its risks. However, when used in the treatment of drinking water, some disinfectants combine with organic and inorganic matter present in the water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). A number of DBPs such as Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5s) may be a health concern at certain levels of exposure over long periods of time. In the laboratory analyses results for the four most recent sets of consecutive quarterly samples for TTHMs, two of the quarterly samples collected in the NW area of the water system indicated a running annual average TTHM concentration of 82.9 micrograms per liter (ug/L). The standard is 80 (ug/L). Therefore, the DEP has determined that this is a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation for TTHMs at this location.

What is being done:

- ✓ The City of Punta Gorda has begun an aggressive flushing routine for this site and will be testing for the contaminants listed above on a weekly basis (rather than quarterly).
- ✓ Utilities Customers will receive a notice in the upcoming weeks containing detailed information about the above results including contact information and a discussion of any possible health effects as a result of long term (years) exposure to DBP’s.
- ✓ Additionally, the completion and operation of the Groundwater R.O. plant under construction will reduce by as much as 50% the total organics in the finished drinking water. The reduction of organics will reduce the potential for the formation of TTHM.

City Clerk

Current Board & Committee Vacancies ([Volunteer Appointment Information Form](#))

- Burnt Store Isles Canal Advisory Committee – (Three regular vacancies) meets the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be resident of Burnt Store Isles. Five member board. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Makes recommendations to City Council on effective maintenance of existing canals, waterways and navigable channels within the district, together with the maintenance and reconstruction of seawalls. Holds public hearings and makes final decision on petitions for special permit to the provisions of Section 6-6(c) of the City Code.
- Utility Advisory Board – (One vacancy) meets the fourth Monday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven-member board. Three-year terms – maximum of two terms. Makes recommendations to City Council regarding, but not limited to, revisions to the utility construction standards, alleged billing discrepancies and review of utility drawings and specifications.
- Code Enforcement Board (One alternate vacancy) - Meets the fourth Wednesday at 9 a.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be City resident. Seven member board with two alternate members. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Hears and decides alleged violations of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Police Officers' Pension Board (One regular vacancy) - Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents at large, two police officers and one member appointed by appointed by the Board. Four year terms – no maximum. Charged with management of the Police Officers' Pension Fund.
- Firefighters' Pension Board (One regular vacancy) - Meets quarterly and as called in Council Chambers. Five members – two City residents, two firefighters and one at-large as appointed by the Board. Two year terms – no maximum. Financial disclosure required. Charged with management of the Firefighters' Pension Fund.
- Punta Gorda Isles Canal Advisory Committee (One regular vacancy) - Meets the third Monday at 1:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers. Must be a resident of Punta Gorda Isles. Seven member board. Three year terms – maximum of three terms. Makes recommendations to City Council on effective maintenance of existing canals, waterways and navigable channels within the district, together with the maintenance and reconstruction of seawalls. Holds public hearings and makes final decision on petitions for special permit to the provisions of Section 6-6(c) of the City Code of Ordinances.

New Businesses

All persons, firms or corporations engaging in business or occupation within the City of Punta Gorda are required to obtain a Local Business Tax (LBT) Receipt in accordance with Chapter 12 of the Punta Gorda City Code. As part of our effort to promote economic development and vitality in our area, we offer the following list of new or transferred business within our community this week:

- ✓ Flanery Vacation Rental, 1032 Messina Drive